

# GREEN POWER News

WAPA's Renewable Resources Program covering  
green power, reports, studies and funding

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **February/March 2018**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

*Individuals or agencies sending press releases quoted here are entirely responsible for the accuracy of their information.*

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## Green Power

### Want sustained solar growth? Just add energy storage.

2018 is poised to be a record-breaking year for solar globally. GTM Research projects that solar PV installations in 2018 will be the same as all solar installations pre-2013 combined. Certainly, in the short to medium term, solar power has a strong outlook. In the long term, however, solar power's outlook is not so clear. As solar PV penetration increases, the value of additional solar energy on the grid decreases due to falling capacity value. This has been shown by studies as well as empirical data from grids with large 'duck curves' like California which need to curtail solar when there is more solar generation than the grid can support.

*Source: Fluence via Energy Central, 3/26/18*

### Minnesota Governor Declares March 22 'Clean Energy Business Day'

On Thursday, Gov. Mark Dayton, D-Minn., delivered a proclamation that declared March 22 as "Clean Energy Business Day" in Minnesota.

The proclamation coincided with Clean Energy Business Day at the Capitol – an advocacy day for business owners, clean energy workers and advocates.

"Clean energy businesses employ 57,351 Minnesotans, as of 2016, with wages 42 percent higher than the statewide average," Dayton proclaimed. "Minnesota's nation-leading clean energy policies have established a unique competitive advantage for innovators, entrepreneurs, investors and businesses to deliver value-added products and services growing Minnesota's clean energy markets."

*Source: North American WindPower, 3/23/18*

### DOE sponsors collegiate wind competition

According to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) **Wind Vision** report, wind generation could double by 2020—and double again by 2030. As the U.S. power generation mix incorporates more wind energy, qualified workers will be needed to fill related jobs at all levels.

To help facilitate this process, DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory created the **Collegiate Wind Competition** in 2014. The competition aims to prepare students from multiple disciplines to enter the wind energy workforce by providing real-world technology experience.

Learn more about **how to get involved** in the Collegiate Wind Competition.

*Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 3/22/18*

### On the duck's 10th birthday, here's how to keep it from eating the power system

*In 2008, the Duck Curve revealed the high solar penetration threat; has it been met?*

A fat, slow-moving, 10-year-old duck threatens the U.S. power grid, despite the many engineering minds that have been and are still hunting it.

Ten years ago, researchers began thinking about the impact of rising renewables penetrations on the power system. They noticed solar creates a unique challenge because it can take over for less variable generation during the day but fades just when demand peaks in the evening.

Where solar penetrations rose fastest, power system operators and researchers saw increasing reason for concern about this challenge. It led them to discover new levels of grid flexibility that are still taking shape.

*Source: Utility Dive, 3/22/18*

## **Green Power Partnership Program Update, Issue #56**

The EPA Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program encouraging organizations to use green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use.

### **In This Issue**

- Reminder: Green Power Leadership Award Application Period Open through April 6!
- Renewable Energy Markets 2018: Call for Abstracts
- Upcoming Data Deadline for Top Partner Rankings and College & University Challenge
- New Guidance Document: "Offsets and RECs: What's the Difference?"
- Green Power Partners Leading the Way
- Partner Spotlight: Snyder's-Lance
- Photos of the Month: Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute
- Webinar: Renewable Energy Markets 101
- Webinar Recap: Feb 21 State of the Voluntary Market
- Webinar Opportunity and Newly Released Guidance
- Voluntary Data Request from NREL and WWF to Gauge Renewable Energy Interest in the Southeast

*Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 3/20/18*

## Are utilities missing out on the opportunity to use old coal sites for solar?

Utilities could turn liabilities into assets by building solar arrays where burning coal has left a site unsuitable for other purposes — but only a few forward-looking utilities are even exploring the possibility.

Unused coal sites make up a small portion of the 450,000+ U.S. brownfields, where expansion, redevelopment or reuse is complicated by hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants. But a coal site is a liability for its utility or independent power producer (IPP) owner. It offers no benefits and imposes maintenance costs that burden ratepayers and shareholders.

Two small utilities, one in Florida and another in Massachusetts, have turned financial burdens into financial opportunities, and other utilities may benefit by looking at what they've done.

*Source: Utility Dive, 3/8/18*

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

## Reports and Studies

### Resilient Solar: Powering and Empowering Communities

#### Institute for Sustainable Communities

This publication shares the stories of trailblazing resilient solar projects in New York City, Baltimore, Duluth, and San Francisco, and connects readers to tools, resources, and lessons learned that they can put to use in their own communities.

#### More Information

Communities across the U.S. are exploring how resilient solar can help strengthen resilience, advance renewable energy goals, and best serve vulnerable neighborhoods during disasters. Our latest publication showcases efforts in four U.S. cities—New York City, Baltimore, Duluth, and San Francisco—as promising examples of how resilient solar can power, and empower, communities. With strong leadership provided by community-based organizations, universities, and municipalities, these collaborative projects are demonstrating the power to profoundly improve the health, safety, and well-being of communities, particularly those who are historically underserved and often most vulnerable to disaster.

Read our report and join us April 5 for a [webinar](#) to learn more about these resilient solar projects and what made them successful.

This webinar will highlight how cities play an important role in advancing individual projects and developing resilience strategies.

*Source: Institute for Sustainable Communities, 3/16/18*

## **Report: Offshore Wind Could Power East Coast 'For Decades To Come'**

From Maine to Florida, the winds blowing off the Atlantic Coast could be the power source for a clean energy future, according to a new report entitled "Wind Power to Spare: The Enormous Energy Potential of Atlantic Offshore Wind," released today by Environment America and Frontier Group.

The report finds that winds blowing off the Atlantic coast could provide four times more electricity each year than the region currently uses. Moreover, 12 of the 14 coastal states have offshore wind potential that exceeds their current electricity consumption, the report adds.

*Source: North American Wind Power, 3/22/18*

## **SEU 2018 survey: Utilities shaken, not moved, by Trump policies**

A new survey of North American utility executives shows them wary of President Donald Trump's energy policies, but unmoved in their commitment to a cleaner energy future.

Utility Dive's 2018 State of the Electric Utility Survey, out today, reveals a sector still overwhelmingly committed to moving to a lower-carbon, more distributed electricity system. But it also shows that professionals are increasingly concerned with policy and market uncertainty following the first year of the Trump administration.

*Source: Utility Dive via **Energy Services Bulletin**, 2/27/18*

## **Energy storage webinar available online**

The Energy Storage Technology Advancement Partnership (ESTAP) presented the webinar, *State of the US Energy Storage Industry: 2017 Year in Review*, on Feb. 13. Guest speakers from GTM Research shared insights related to recent developments in the US energy storage market, including deployment trends, policy updates and market outlook.

ESTAP is supported by The DOE Office of Electricity and Sandia National Laboratories support ESTAP, and the Clean Energy States Alliance manages the partnership.

### **Register for upcoming webinars**

- Solar+Storage for Public and Affordable Housing  
Thursday, Feb. 22, 11 am-12 pm MT
- One Year In – Energy Storage Proves its Worth in Sterling, MA  
Wednesday, March 7, 11 am-12 pm MT
- Valuing Resilience: Exploring the Role of Solar+Storage in Grid Outages  
Wednesday, March 14, 11 am-12 pm MT

*Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 2/13/18*

## **Cost-Reduction Roadmap Outlines Two Pathways to Meet DOE Residential Solar Cost Target for 2030**

Installing photovoltaics at the time of roof replacement or as part of the new home construction process could enable significant cost savings

Leveraging cost-reduction opportunities in the roof replacement or new construction markets for residential photovoltaic (PV) installations could help the United States meet the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) residential solar photovoltaic cost target by 2030, according to new research from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

*Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2/8/18*

## **Funding**

### **USDA Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Grants**

#### **Apply by April 30**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications to provide guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements.

These loan guarantees and grants are part of USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which was created under the 2008 Farm Bill and reauthorized under the 2014 Farm Bill. REAP helps agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption by purchasing and installing renewable energy systems and making energy efficiency improvements in their operations. Eligible systems may derive energy from wind, solar, hydro-electric, ocean, hydrogen, geothermal or renewable biomass (including anaerobic digesters).

The deadline to apply for grants is April 30, 2018. Applications for loan guarantees are accepted year round. Learn more about the program and how to apply. Note: Indian tribes are not directly applicable; however, Indian tribes with agricultural operations and or small businesses may be eligible. Please see the eligibility requirements and/or contact USDA directly with questions.

*Source: DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, 3/23/18*

### **Up To \$11.5 Million Available for Energy Infrastructure Deployment on Tribal Lands**

**Deadline: April 19**

On February 16, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced up to \$11.5 million in new funding to deploy energy infrastructure on tribal lands. This funding through the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs will support Native American and Alaska Native communities interested in harnessing their vast undeveloped energy resources.

*Source: US Department of Energy, 2/16/18*

**Find more [funding sources](#).**